

January 23, 2006

Marine Life Protection Act  
Blue Ribbon Task Force  
c/o California Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street #1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support for Marine Life Protection Act

Dear Chair Isenberg and Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force Members:

I am writing to express my support for your efforts on the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative. I have been following with interest over the past several months the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative's Regional Stakeholder Group process. I am impressed by the tremendous amount of work that diverse local stakeholders have invested in preparing alternative proposals for a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) along the Central Coast.

As you know, the Central Coast is home to a stunning diversity of marine species and underwater habitats. It is also home to a coastal tourism-based economy, ports that support recreational and commercial fishing interests, more than two-dozen marine research institutions, and tens of thousands of local residents who consider ocean protection integral to their quality of life. Improving California's existing array of MPAs through adoption of a network of scientifically based marine reserves and conservation areas will provide significant benefits to the Central Coast communities that I represent.

As your Task Force evaluates alternative proposals for MPA networks and makes its recommendations to the State Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission, I urge you to support an MPA proposal that is science-based and will result in significantly improved protection for the marine life of the Central Coast and the local economies that depend on a healthy ocean. Specifically, I urge you to consider the legacy we hope to leave for future Californians and to err on the side of caution and long-term sustainability.

I understand that implementation of an effective network of marine reserves and conservation areas will result in costs for enforcement, administration and monitoring. I welcome your support of my continuing efforts to secure funding in the state budget to support environmental protection and enhancement.

Thank you for your work on the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative.

Sincerely,

/s/

JOHN LAIRD  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

JL:ae

cc: Governor Schwarzenegger  
Secretary Chrisman